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4 May 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: April Progress Meeting - Project CORONA

1. The monthly CORONA progress meeting was held Thursday, 23 April 1959. [REDACTED]

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2. The meeting began with a discussion of the secondary programmer that was used on test shot #3 (flight 2) and the events that had caused this programmer to drop the recoverable capsule into the Spitzberg area rather than into the normal Hawaiian recovery area. Without going into detail the mishap was caused at the Hawaiian tracking station when the number of correction signals (to correct the programmer to actual time of 90, 5 minutes vs. 94, 5 minutes predicted orbit time) were erroneously counted. The result was that the programmer was operating at a rate different from the actual rate of the satellite orbit about the earth. The programmer could not again be corrected, since the timing was off and when the satellite was in range of our ground stations the programmer would not accept the commands. The chance of this particular event occurring again has been eliminated by procedure corrections at the various tracking and ground control stations.

3. The discussion then turned to a secondary programmer using a daylight-darkness sensing device to establish orbital time and to internally correct programmer timing. The device has not been developed to the useable stage as yet, however, test #4 will have a device of this type installed for test purposes only with actual control being furnished by command control of the [REDACTED] programmer. This [REDACTED] programmer is a different one from the one used in shot #3, but still depends on ground command control to bring actual orbit time and predicted orbit time into agreement.

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NRO review(s)
completed.

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referring to Project CORONA

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- 2 -

4. A decision was made to substitute camera #5 for camera #4 in the first CORONA shot because it was felt that #5 performed more reliably.

5. The new schedule of launches was presented with test launch #4 being scheduled for 21 May and the first CORONA launch for 3 June.

6. After the formal meeting, several items were discussed in smaller groups and several problems were solved. One of these was a firm figure of film available for the first CORONA shot. Intelligence can expect to have 205° of latitude coverage. Any test film and pad film required will be added and the net amount available will be 205° latitude of useable coverage.

7. Most of the details of the recoverable capsule handling procedures were ironed out. The problem of film type and camera settings to use was tentatively settled, however, this is subject to review by Ed Green at EK. The methods and procedures for handling ephemeris data transferral between and PIC were not resolved, however, interested people were made aware of the problem and a meeting to resolve this problem was set for 2 May 1959.

CHARLES L. MURPHY
Lt. Col. USAF

CLM:bm

- 1 - Ch, Ops Br, DPD
- 2 - AC, DPD
- 3 - Intel
- 4 - CC
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